

Banks School District looking at potential reductions of \$819,000

Banks School District will have to reduce spending by \$819,000 in 2003-04 if there are no additional funds forthcoming, explained Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson as she presented the first draft of proposed cuts at the May 12 board meeting.

Using the budget goals identified by the board for 2002-2005, an administrative team has been working since January to identify areas where cuts could be made. McGlasson stressed that these cuts are recommendations and that, "nothing is set in stone."

Based on current projections from the legislature, the district should receive \$5,024 per ADMw (Average Daily Membership, weighted for several specific reasons) next school year, nearly \$100 less per student than the district received six years ago, McGlasson explained. The district must build a balanced budget with this amount of money regardless of cost increases that the district cannot control.

The team first calculated what the current budget would be, adjusted for increases such

as cost of living raises and the required PERS increase. This status quo budget would require \$8,220,914. Based on a state school fund of \$4.9 billion, the district can expect revenues of \$7,404,052, requiring a reduction of \$818,862 from this year's budget.

Reductions proposed by the administrative team included:

- \$250,000 due to the retirement of several staff members.
- \$175,000 loan payment no longer required.
- \$75,000 reduction to contingency fund
- \$66,000 High School Teacher (reorganization)
- \$50,000 temporary Elementary Teacher (not re-hired)
- \$33,000 Utilities
- \$25,000 Sports & Activities (20%)
- \$23,000 School-Work Aide
- \$22,000 Supplies (20%)
- \$20,000 Transportation
- \$20,000 Repairs & Maintenance
- \$15,000 Interest
- \$9,000 ESL Aide
- \$8,000 Media and books
- \$6,000 High School Web Classes
- \$6,000 Counselor

- \$5,000 Data Processing
- \$4,800 Jr. High Americorp
- \$2,200 Mastery in Motion
- \$2,000 Board Supplies
- \$2,000 National Conference (included in administration contract)

If there are no changes, these proposed reductions will balance the 2003-2004 budget, restore a full school year, and not require an increase in Pay-to-Play fees. Everything has been and will be considered, according to McGlasson, but these cuts are recommended because they do not destroy programs.

Two-year budget would be worse

McGlasson also included a projected budget for 2004-2005. According to McGlasson, "The legislature is currently discussing a biennial budget that includes no increase in funding in the second year. Inflation and cost of living adjustment for 2004-05 are offset by the elimination of the one time PERS required increase. None of the proposed 03/04 cuts are restored." McGlasson told the board that, with no increase in

revenue, the \$250,000 difference between revenue and expenses for 2004-2005 would result in additional cuts.

The board declined to schedule a budget workshop. McGlasson said she would be speaking to staff groups over the next week. In addition, she will also be available to talk with any interested patrons, individually or in groups.

The budget document will be presented June 2 at a public meeting of the budget committee.

Students Receive Science Grant

Ben Farley, Terry Ball, and Megan Jurasek presented the independent biology project that they have been working on throughout the year. Teacher Vern Beeson said the students wrote, and received, a \$1,500 grant to purchase all of the equipment they needed. The students said that they have been working with Metro in the Killim Wetlands. The land was purchased by Metro several years ago and includes one of the few intact stands of Geyer Willows in Oregon.

The students performed wa-

ter temperature monitoring, willow propagation, placed bird houses, and counted wildlife. They thanked Diack Ecology Education Project for providing funds to purchase water temperature probes, recording equipment and software, a GPS locator, Digital camera and hip waders for each student. The group also thanked Curt Zoncik, of Metro Green-spaces Project, for directing their work.

Other business

In other business the board; Approved minor changes in policies to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Approved an increase in junior high fees to provide each student with a planner/handbook.

Thanked board member Ann Statton for her twelve years of service.

Thanked Kathy and Steward Douglas for their efforts on the Banks Community Auction, which raised over \$28,000. In addition to scholarships, the high school will receive a new sound system.

Washington County tire round-up

An Old Tire Round Up will take place Sunday, June 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Tires must be off the rim. No tractor tires, commercial tires, earthmover tires, dirty, muddy, or filthy tires will be accepted.

A \$1.00 fee (cash only) will be charged for each passenger/SUV and smaller tires.

\$5.00 will be charged for tires over 33" in diameter.

Tires must be clean. Dirty and muddy tires will be charged a \$5.00 cleaning fee per tire.

The event is for Washington County Households only. Proof of residency will be required.

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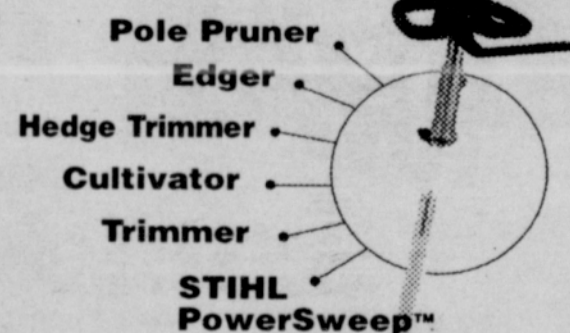
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